(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Revision of cost estimates in oil and gas projects is a normal industry practice as the projects progress from the initial exploration phase to the development phase. During this process, costs get refined based on factors such as reserves estimates, technological aspects and financial & economic parameters. In the case of Sakhalin-I Project, the current estimated reserves for oil and gas are higher as compared to the reserves estimated at the time of approval of the project, thus necessitating higher costs, which are not final as of today.

Revival of terminated dealership by BPCL

2105. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil marketing companies are not empowered to take decision on issues of revival of terminated retail outlets and SKO-LDO dealership and condoning any delay in the commissioning of retail outlets/dealerships;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Bharat Petroleum Corporation had revived two terminated retail outlet dealerships during last year;

(c) if so, the grounds on which the said retail outlets/dealerships were terminated earlier; and

(d) the grounds on which Government permitted BPCL to revive those retail outlets/dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) As per the Government guidelines issued in January, 1999, revival of SKO/LDO dealerships is not permited. However, revival of retail outlets which have become inoperative after 1.1.1996 can be considered by the Oil Marketing Companies subject to certain norms. Besides, deserving cases which are not strictly covered under guidelines can be referred to the Government for decision.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s. Swagat Auto, Thane District, Maharashtra was terminated on account of poor performance/management and M/s. Delhi Gate Service Station, Agra, Uttar Pradesh was terminated on account of regular dryouts and other irregularities.

(d) In the case of M/s. Swagat Auto, decision has been taken by the Government on merits. In the other case, reinstatement was done as per the order of the Allahabad High Court.

Production of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

2106. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual average quantum of crude oil and natural gas which are being produced in the country;

(b) the details of annual average quantum of crude oil and natural gas imported; and

(c) the details of schemes, projects in force and proposed schemes and projects to expand the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The average annual production of crude oil and natural gas in the country during the last three years, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 32.13 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 29.21 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM), respectively.

(b) During the period referred to above in reply to part (a), the average annual import of crude oil was 70.20 MMT. No import of natural gas was made during this period.

(c) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) scemes; in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this